Course Choice Abroad

2026

General info

- Start application early, you will need to spend time learning & understanding the different system/credit requirements of each program
- You need to apply to at least one alternative to be considered for Cambridge, EPT or UCL
- Each program has its own handout listed on our website, please review it!!
- Applications are due on January 25, 2027
- These courses are not set in stone and can change when you apply to the partner univerisity.

Requirements UCL, Edinburgh, UChicago, Melbourne, DTU

- Students must take a minimum of 18 Caltech units (2 to 4 classes based on credit/unit system of partner university) in the department closest to your STEM option at the host university – can be for required, equivalent, elective credit, broadening, etc.; must be a STEM class.

- If you have a double option, the 18 Caltech units must be in your admitting department, no splitting. Minor classes may be taken as additions to your 2 classes in your option.

Requirements Cambridge and EPT

- Students must take a minimum of 36 Caltech units (4 to 7 classes based on credit/unit system of partner university) in the department closest to their STEM option at the host university – can be for required, equivalent, elective credit, broadening, etc. Must be a STEM class.
- You be admitted to the partner university in your in your option NOT your minor
- At EPT you may take a french class but some of the classes do not offer them units with them.

No humanities or social science department classes.

Requirements for all Programs

Must take at least 36 Caltech units and minimum of 4 classes. Some partner universities (UCL & Melbourne) only allow 4 classes.

7 classes are allowed where classes are offered that are less than 9-unit equivalents, e.g., 3 or 6 – primarily occurs at Cambridge in certain subjects such as CS or physics to achieve the 36 unit minimum.

No need to get professor/instructor’s approval for courses at this point. (This happens after you have been placed in a program)

Background for Classes

- Prerequisites are not always listed on class descriptions, you may need to reach out to study abroad program for clarification
- All proposal's should use the current year's fall schedule
- Make sure the class has graded assignments, projects or tests (except Cambridge)
- Classes can NOT overlap or be taught at the same time

DTU



Subjects

No Language requirement!

- Natural Sciences
- Engineering
- Bioengineering
- Bioinformatics
- Chemical & Environmental Eng
- Bio-Sustainability
- Mech E & EE
- Micro & Nanotechnology
- Applied Math
- Computer Science
- Systems Biology
- Physics
- Transport
- Food Science
- Photonics
- Space Sciences
- Wind Energy, & Mgmt Eng (BEM)

DTU

Credit

- ECTS = European Credit Transfer Credits
- Classes are usually 5 or 10 ECTS
- 5 ECTS courses are awarded 9 units of Caltech credit
- 10 ECTS courses can be awarded 12 units of Caltech credit with faculty approval
- Students must take 20 ECTS or minimum of 36 CIT units

DTU

Choosing Classes

- When choosing classes pay attention to the term taught (fall only) and the level of class, e.g., Bachelors or Masters
- Must take 2 classes (10 ECTS units) in your option equivalent or related field that counts towards option requirements
- Go to the following link to search for classes:
  - https://kurser.dtu.dk/search
- Students can take classes in any faculty at DTU as long as:
  - you have background knowledge/classes to all the courses you plan to take abroad
  - exchange students are allowed to take the class

DTU

Block System

- The weekly schedule is composed of ten teaching blocks
- Each block is 4 hours long 8am to noon or 1pm to 5pm:
  - Lecture/coffee break/lecture & discussion/break/problem or project session with faculty member attending
- Each 5 ECTS class is taught in one 4-hour block.
- Each 10 ECTS class is taught in two 4-hour blocks, but not on the same day

Block System continued...

Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8-12	1A	3A	5A	2B	4B
12-13	Pause	Pause	Pause	Pause	Pause
13-17	2A	4A	5B	1B	3B

- Under the schedule in the course description there might be written E or F. E means autumn (efterår) and F means spring (forår)
- If a course is said to take place in E3, then this means that the course is being taught during autumn in BOTH module 3A AND 3B.
- If in the course catalogue a course is said to take place in E3A, then this means that the course is being taught during autumn, ONLY in module 3A and NOT 3B.

DTU



École Polytechnique

General Info

No Language requirement!

- Can only take classes from Year 3 curriculum
  - Students take 4 classes in your PA (area of scientific specialization) and can only take classes in one PA
- Can take one hum or social science depending on offerings and schedule, usually this is a French language class
- Cannot do Bachelor's classes
- If you are applying at a sophomore you may have to petition to get into the correct level classes
- Online course catalog (language of instruction indicated): https://synapses.polytechnique.fr/catalogue/2025-2026

EPT

Available PAs

- Biology
- Bioinformatics
- Chemistry
- Computer Science
- Economics
- Energy
- Electrical Engineering
- Science for Environmental Challenges (GPS)
- Technological Innovation
- Mathematics
- Applied Mathematics
- Physics
- Sciences & Space Challenges

- When searching for course, go to Year 3 Scientific Specialization: https://programmes.polytechnique.edu/en/ingenieur-polytechnicien-program/program-details/year-3-of-the-ingenieur-polytechnicien-program

EPT

Schedule and Credits

- Courses follow a block schedule
  - meet once a week
  - classes are 4-5 hours long
- École Polytecnique uses ECTS
  - most science classes are worth 5-10 ECTS
  - humanities and language are worth 2-4 ECTS
  - students must complete at least 36 CIT units = about 20 ECTS, plus French language course
- only look at classes numbered in the 500 range
  - course codes starting w/ 550 and 570 are generally taught in the fall
  - codes starting w/ 560 and 580 are generally taught in the winter
  - codes starting with 590 refers to research internship (spring)

EPT

Edinburgh



Subjects

- University organized into 3 colleges:
  - College of Arts, Humanities, & Social Sciences (CAHSS)
  - College of Science & Engineering (CSE)
  - College of Medicine & Vet Medicine - no courses can be taken in this college
- Students are admitted into the College of Science and Engineering
  - biological sciences, chemistry, engineering (ME, Chem E, EE, Civil), geosciences, informatics, mathematics, physics, astronomy

EDIN

Credits & Choosing Classes

- Only use the SCQF credit numbers, either 10 or 20, when looking for classes
  - do not list ECTS credits
- Classes are equal to 9 CIT units
  - unless student get facilty approval for 12 CIT units
- Your proposal should list 4 to 5 courses totaling 60 to 80 Edinburgh credits
  - must take at least 4 courses and a max of 5 classes
  - 2 in your option and other 2-3 can be in other department

EDIN

Choosing Classes Continued...

- In the DRPS, classes have codes such as SVI, SS1, and VV1
  - http://www.drps.ed.ac.uk/25-26/
  - these codes indicate when a class is taught
  - courses not available to visiting students: SS1, VV1 and labeled “N”
  - SV1 - available to visiting students - **must be taught in semester 1**
    - **all classes you list should be SV1**
- Courses are designated by level
  - 3rd and 4th year students are at level 9 and above (for your option or closely related field)
  - level 7 or 8 are usually introductory classes
    - more appropriate if you have minimal prior background in the subject for humanities and social sciences

EDIN

Schools in Depth

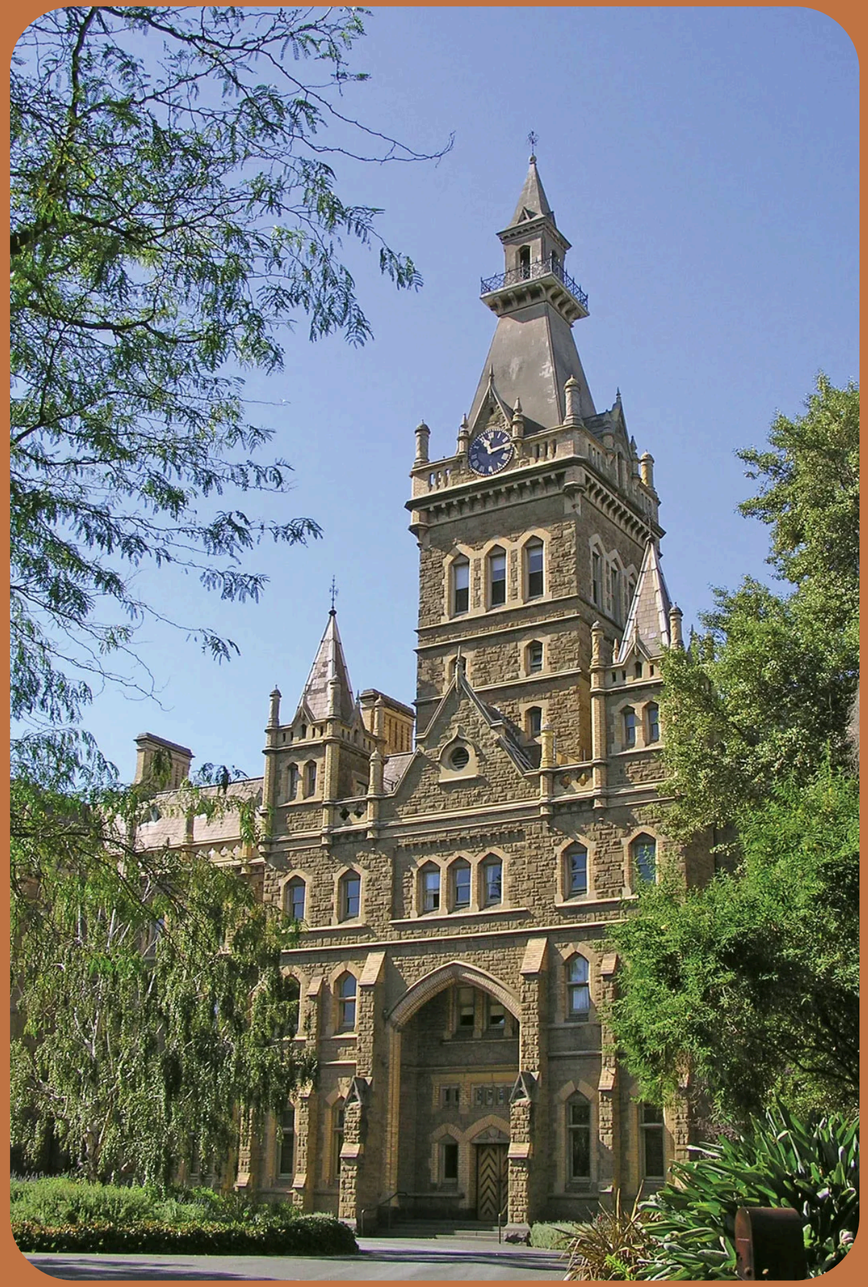
*Engineering class choice factors:

- ME, ChemE, and EE have fall project & design classes open to study abroad students
  - ex) Design of Microsystems, Electronic Product Design & Manufacture

- Biological Sciences:
  - some subjects don't have intro levels, biochemistry starts at level 10
  - 10 is the top level for undergrad classes - you can not take post grad classes
  - you must have prereqs to take level 10 classes
- Chemistry:
  - levels 8-10 & some 11
- Engineering:
  - levels 8-11
  - 11 available for most engineering and level 8 unavailable for chemical engineering

Schools in Depth continued...

- Geosciences
  - includes human geography, economics, environmental science, & geology/geochemistry
  - postgrad classes may be available depending on background
- Informatics (CS)
  - levels 8-11 can be taken
  - Classes in design, machine learning, human-computer interaction, robotics, etc.
- Mathematics
  - levels 8-10 can be taken
  - most level 11 classes unavailable to SA students
  - both pure & applied
- Physics & Astronomy
  - levels 8-11 can be taken
  - Astronomy can work well for GPS Planetary Science option students



Melbourne

About & Requirements

- All subjects (classes) are 12.5 points each
  - equivalent to 9 CIT units
  - can request approval from facilty for 12 CIT units
- Must take exactly 50 points, no more or less
- At least 50 % of classes in option
  - Can do 25% of classes as research/internship class
  - Up to 50% in other subjects in science/eng or in humanities or social -your choice.
- Choose Semester 2 subjects (classes) only

MEL

Choosing Classes

- subjects = classes
- courses = degree program
- Handbook - https://handbook.unimelb.edu.au/search
  - Choose **Semester 2** Choose Undergraduate **Subjects**
  - **Choose Subject Study Area, Faculty & Depts**
- Another resource to help choose classes
  - What Can I Study Guide: bit.ly/47UZJHL
- nominate 6 subjects (classes) to ensure you will be accepted into 4 of them
- Class codes
  - 1-3 often undergrad
  - 4 often Honours year and could be UG or PG
  - 5-9 is post-grad
- You may be able to take some post-grad (grad) level subjects

MEL

Choosing Classes Continued...

- Subject names and codes must be listed in your proposed course list
  - ex) GEOL30009 Advanced Field Geology
- There are 2-week long intensive subjects offered in December available to Study Abroad students - extra fees/cost
- Students can register for subjects labeled “Research Project” or an internship
  - pursue research or an internship and receive credit
  - contact prof or company beforehand to establish relationship & discuss option for research/internship
  - limited to **one** research class for 9 to 12 CIT units

University College London



Departments of Study

At UCL study abroad students are admitted by the department and every department has their own acceptance rules. Please check their website:

- https://www.ucl.ac.uk/prospective-students/study-abroad-at-ucl/subjects
- Availibity needs to say “**Fall Term**”
- And you must meet their option specific GPA requirements

UCL

Choosing Classes

Humanities & Social Science usually **only** level 1 or 2:

- Economics - level 1 only
- Can **not** take English Lit classes at UCL but may in other Lit depts
  - ex) Roman poetry

- search by Subjects to find classes
- Admitted to one department and students must take 50% of classes or 30 UCL credits in that dept.
- Students must take exactly 60 UCL credits
  - list UCL credits only
  - do not include US or ECTS
- In Science, Engineering, Humanities and Social Sciences, 15 credits is one class
- Since classes for next fall are not yet listed, list classes based on the current schedule
- Courses will be designated by Fall term, Spring, or Year



UChicago

Choosing Courses

- Students must take 4 classes
  - 2 classes must be in your option
  - Other 2 classes can be humanities/social science or 2 more option required classes
  - can take graduate level classes if you have the prior knowledge
- Classes are 100 units each = 9 CIT units
- Course search: bit.ly/49Bj0PM
- Classes numbered 1000 to 1999 are intro or first level
- 2000 to 2999 are upper level
- 3000 and up are grad level

CHI

Cambridge



Tripos or Course of Study

- You can only take classes in your tripos/subject
  - Exception: in Natural Science tripos there are interdisciplinary classes for Physics, Earth Sciences, and Chemistry usuallyduring Lent term only
- A few tripos subjects offer electives, e.g., Engineering, that have language or BEM/Econ classes

- Natural Sciences
- Mathematics
- Chemical Engineering and Biotechnology
- Engineering
- Computer Science

Natural Science Tripos

Encompassing a wide range of subjects from biochemistry, ecology, neurobiology and genetics, to physics, chemistry, environmental and materials science

Physics & Astronomy Part II or III:

- Theoretical Physics or Department of Applied Mathematics and Theoretical Physisc: Physics & Math overlap (Physics students may be able to take some Math Part II classes)
- Astronomy students may take physics classes & vice versa
- You can ONLY do one Physics Experiment per term - will not fulfill Physics lab requirement

Chemistry Part III only:

- Very challening for juniors
- ChemE is separate tripos (no mixing)
- No Biochemistry allowed

Geological Sciences Parts II or III:

- Okay to take field courses for field credit if available

Interdisciplinary Classes Part III:

- Limited to Chemistry, Geological Sciences, or Physics
- You can propose up to 2 of these- but check schedule carefully for time conflicts with your subject

Biological Sciences

Biology:

- Part II preferred
- Some IB allowed
- Psychology, Neuroscience & Behavior (PNB)
- Physiology, Development, & Neuroscience (PDN)
- Plant Sciences & Zoology
- only part I and II
- at least one essay a week

Physiology, Development and Neuroscience vs. Psychology, Neuroscience, Behavior

- The modules that make up (PDN/PNB) are mostly shared and most from PDN, but if a student wants to do cognitive related classes then they should take PNB
- essay based classes
- no projects
- PDN website: https://www.pdn.cam.ac.uk/
- PNB website: https://www.psychol.cam.ac.uk/study/ug/nst-ii

Not Allowed:
Anatomy, biochemistry, clinical and veterinary medicine, genetics, pathology, or pharmacology

Chemistry/Chem E

Chemisty

- Part III
- Students cannot take Part II because classes run into second term
- Part III classes are taught for 4 weeks
- Students choose 3 classes for 6 units per class for the first half of the term
- Choose 3 classes for 6 units per class in the second half of the term
- https://teaching.ch.cam.ac.uk/course-guides

Chemical Enginerring

- Most ChemE students have opted for the engineering tripos
- Best to check classes in both ChemE and the engineering tripos

Physics & Mathematics

Physics

- https://www.phy.cam.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/
- Part II and III
- Only seniors or very advanced juniors should take Part III classes
  - You need to have covered standard Caltech junior year classes to take Part III
- TP 1 (Michaelmas) and TP2 (Lent) are equivalents of Physics 125 ab

Mathematics

- https://www.maths.cam.ac.uk/undergrad/course
- Can only take classes from:
  - Part IA, IB, or II only
  - Have C & D level classes - D level are harder
- You can NOT take classes from part III - graduate program
- No separate applied math dept
- Must have at least 16 lectures = 6 CIT units & 24=9 CIT units

Chemical Engineering and Biotechnology

- You can take courses in Part IIA or Part IIB – senior electives and specialization
- Some classes split into 2 sections, meaning some finish after winter break
  - You cannot take these
- Has themes such as:
  - process applications and systems
  - mathematical methods
- Many ChemE's select the Engineering Tripos or can opt for Chemistry Part III

*Old examples of syllabus are in FASA office

Engineering

Has sub-groups such as

- Group A: Energy, Fluid Mechanics and Turbo machinery
- Group B: Electrical Engineering
- Group C: Mechanics Materials and Design
- Group D: Civil & Structural Engineering
- Group E: Management and Manufacturing
- Group F: Information Engineering
- Group G: Bioengineering

- You can take courses in Part IIA or Part IIB (3rd or 4th year)
  - Must take at least 2 in IIA (IIB has no supervisions & max of 2 IIB)
  - Classes are called modules
- You can take 4-5 classes
  - At least 2 out of 4 or 3 out of 5 must be “real” engineering courses (not management, languages, etc.) and in Part IIA
  - The two Part IIA classes must be in the group equivalent to your Caltech primary STEM option
- Has BEM type classes & language classes
- Look carefully at Engineering – could be a better fit for some CS, BioEng, ChemE students than the tripos that seems to match option
  - Make sure you have the background for Part IIA or IIB
- Modules (click on parts): https://teaching.eng.cam.ac.uk/
- Timetables: https://teaching.eng.cam.ac.uk/node/4112

Computer Science

- You can take classes from any part, as long as there are no time conflicts
- Part IA is ok, but likely too easy
- Part IB is sophomore/junior level
- Part II is the 3rd year- equivalent to junior/senior
- Must have at least 16 lectures to equal 9 CIT units
- Classes are taught for as few as two weeks to as many as 8, please check the schedule
- You must have at least 3 classes taught at any time in the term – no clustering at the start, middle or end of term
- All parts: https://www.cst.cam.ac.uk/teaching
- Note that Part II classes are taught in a building a 20 minute walk from Part IA or IB
  - This can cause a time conflict due to the walking time
- Unit of assessment classes
  - Students can only choose 1 of these classes
  - Class is twice the workload of a regular class
  - Class has exams at end of term and often a project and no supervisions

Example of CS Schuedule

Course	Time	Lectures/Supervisions	Units	Part	Week 1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Machine Learning and Bayesian Inference	TR11	16/4	9	II									
Computer Vision	TR12	16/4	9	II									
Computer Systems Modelling	MWF9	12/3	6	II									
Topical Issues	MWF11	12/3	6	II									
Databases	MWF12	12/3	6	IB									

- Some timetables/syllabi are listed on a locked system, so you'll have to write to the department for info or check FASA website for posted materials
- Cambridge has a shorter term than other study abroad programs (good and bad)
- You can take only take classes in one tripos/subject with exception of NatSci Lent only interdisciplinary classes (propose 2, take only 1)
- You will NOT receive a transcript for your time at Cambridge.

Part 1A = First Year
Part 1B = Second Year
Part II and IIA = Third Year
Part IIB and III = Fourth Year

You can mix classes from different parts but be aware of the schedule clashes and the locations of the classes. Some classes may be over a mile away.

Find Classes

- DTU: https://kurser.dtu.dk/search
- École Polytechnique:
  - https://moodle.polytechnique.fr/course/index.php?categoryid=1302
  - https://synapses.polytechnique.fr/catalogue/2025-2026/diplome/1/X-titre-d-ingenieur-diplome-de-l-ecole-polytechnique
- Edinburgh: http://www.drps.ed.ac.uk/25-26/
- Melbourne: https://handbook.unimelb.edu.au/search
- UCL: https://www.ucl.ac.uk/prospective-students/study-abroad-at-ucl/subjects
- UChicago: bit.ly/49Bj0PM

Course Lists & Proposals

- Examples in FASA library
  - Examples are listed by University and Option
  - We are open Mon-Fri am-4pm most days
- Check host universities course catalog as offerings change
- After you are placed in a program you are able to change classes via a petition/approval process
- All courses you take abroad must be approved by a CIT professor in advance

Course List for Edinburgh

NAME --- 2022
Bioengineering Option Caltech
Science and Engineering Edinburgh
Edinburgh Credits: 80
CIT Units: 36
Date: September 25, 2022

1. Biological Chemistry 2 (CHEM08030)
College of Science and Engineering
School of Chemistry
Credits: 20
Caltech Units: 9
BE Option Requirement (Introduction to Biochemistry Ch/Bi 110a Equivalent Course)
Caltech Evaluator: Professor Scott Virgil

2. The Green Planet 2 (BILG08016)
College of Science and Engineering
School of Biological Sciences
Credits: 20
Caltech Units: 9
BE Option Credit (General BE Elective)
Caltech Evaluator: Professor Justin Bois

3. History of Art 1A: Images and Identity, 500-1700 (HIAR08029)
College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences
Edinburgh College of Art
Credits: 20
Caltech Units: 9
General Credit (Misc. Hum)
Caltech Evaluator: Dehn Gilmore

4. Medieval Worlds: A Journey through the Middle Ages (HIST08035)
College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences
School of History, Classics and Archaeology
Credits: 20
Caltech Units: 9
General Credit (Misc. Hum)
Caltech Evaluator: Dehn Gilmore

Course Lists for Cambridge

- Must list number of lectures and number of supervisoins

Course List for Cambridge (Michaelmas)
Sally Maylaaay - - - 2025
Physics Option Caltech
Department of Physics (Nat Sci Tripos) Cambridge
Cambridge Units: N/A
CIT Units: 36
Date Updated: September 24, 2025

1. Experimental Physics
Department of Physics
Caltech units: 9 units
Frequency of lectures per week: N/A
No. of Supervisions: N/A
Physics Option credit
Caltech Evaluator: Eric Black

2. Relativity
Department of Physics
Caltech units: 9 units
Frequency of lectures per week: 2 x 1.5 hour
No. of Supervisions: 4
Physics Option credit
Caltech Evaluator: Katerina Chatziioannou

3. Relativistic Astrophysics and Cosmology
Department of Physics
Caltech units: 9 units
Frequency of lectures per week: 3 x 1 hour
No. of Supervisions: 4
Physics Option credit
Caltech Evaluator: Elias Most

4. Quantum Field Theory
Department of Physics
Caltech units: 9 units
Frequency of lectures per week: 3 x 1 hour
No. of Supervisions: 4
Physics Option credit
Caltech Evaluator: Mark Wise

Questions?

All application materials and references are due

January 25, 2027

Please reach out to the FASA office if you have any questions!